

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 16, 2012

HOPE HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

300 HOPE ROAD, CRANSTON, RI 02921

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

MINUTES

The meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the above date with the following members present: Chairperson Iannazzi, Mr. Lombardi, Mrs. McFarland, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mrs. Culhane, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Bloom. Attorney Ronald Cascione was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and convened to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel (Discussion of Job Performance of Certified Administrator A);(Discussion of Teacher C's Agreement), (Discussion of Teacher Assistant D's Agreement), (Discussion of Superintendent Search); PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; (Contract Negotiations' Update – Secretaries), (Maintenance of Effort), (Consideration of legal options regarding status of aid to education appropriation and legal advice relating to same).

Call to Order – Public Session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

The roll was called; a quorum was present. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session minutes sealed – July 16, 2012

A motion to seal these minutes was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. All were in favor.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 18 and June 25, 2012 meetings was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane. All were in favor.

Public Acknowledgements/Communications

Council President Anthony Lupino was present.

Chairperson's Communications

Chairperson Iannazzi stated – this is Superintendent Nero's last meeting with us and we have a host of fun for him this evening. We will start with some citations from elected officials from throughout the state and we do hope you will stay after this meeting to join us with refreshments for Mr. Nero.

 Citation from Governor Chafee's Office on Superintendent Nero's Retirement –

Mr. Traficante read the citation.

 Greetings from Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Mrs. McFarland read the citation.

 Greetings from Secretary of State Mollis

Mrs. Ruggieri read the citation.

 Greetings from Treasurer Raimondo

Mrs. Culhane read the citation.

 Greetings from Senator Jack Reed

Chairperson Iannazzi read the citation.

Chairperson Iannazzi stated – this is a personal plug – I serve on the board of the Lt. Jim Pagano Foundation. For those of you that do not know Jim Pagano was a firefighter who was killed and had lived in the Woodridge community. His family has launched a foundation. They are hosting a golf tournament on August 13 and they are desperately in need of volunteers to help for the day at Alpine Country Club. So, if you are willing to spend a day to help a good cause please drop me an email or give me a call and I will put you in touch with the Pagano family.

Mr. Nero stated – First of all I am deeply honored by everything. People have been asking me what is it like now that you are retiring. It has been the weirdest feeling that I have ever had. I am deeply touched by the outpouring of people coming up to me and saying we're going to miss you. It has been a difficult three years as superintendent of schools but it has been a fun three years too because I get to spend it with all of you and you have all been great. The last School Committees have had to deal with things that have been extremely difficult and they have done it and done it well and with dignity. My executive team, all the members that I work so closely with and some of them are the future leaders of Cranston. I am deeply grateful for your hard work and determination in working

side by side with me. The principals in this district and again like many of my central administrators have not received a raise in five, six and seven years. It has been very difficult and it is unfortunate that in some instances I had to be the superintendent to force that bitter pill for everyone to swallow. But this is a great group of central administrators and this is a great group of principals, assistant principals, and directors and special educators that we have in Cranston. I am grateful for all the hard work that you have given to me.

To a person who waits up for me every time I am away at night, my wife Linda and my son Michael, I am grateful that you stayed by my side. I really am at a loss for words.

To the teachers of Cranston, under the leadership of Liz Larkin, realizing how difficult the task has been I admire and respect that although the difficult times every day you go in and you educate the students of Cranston and you do that well. These are very difficult times; I was not sure after I became superintendent, knowing the decision that had to be made, if I was the person for it. But, I really do believe I was the person for this job at that time.

I am going to ask a couple of things of the School Committee. The first one – I know you are going to stick to the deficit reduction plan but when the band uniforms come in and they have their first joint concert, I want to be there to see the band uniforms, that's the first thing. And when the loan is paid off, and it will be paid off in three years, I want to be there because I want to be part of the deficit reduction plan burning...I want to light that on fire. But I just want to

say thank you every one for your well wishes.

One other note on the matter of business – the other night the Finance Committee passed (but it will have to go to the City Council) the \$3.2 million dollars grant to take ownership of the CAC&TC. That meeting will be on the 23rd and I will go to that meeting to represent the district on July 23rd.

Comments from School Committee Members

Mr. Lombardi stated – forty years ago I met a man named Peter Nero. I was a ten year old boy hanging around with my brother at Rhode Island College and I never would have believed the two of us would be here tonight Peter. Me, it was reasons of my family situation, not having any parents, money and you, you just weren't a great student Peter so I never knew you were going to make your way out of college but we both are here right now and we have been through life together and all of our things though life we have done together. I always say to people, in my life I was raised by a committee because I had no mom or dad, no grandparents, none of that stuff and through the years people that I have acquired in my life have become very special to me and you occupy one of those seats as you know. Throughout that time I saw you marry the love of your life, I saw you have the miracle of birth in your son, I was there for the horrible news when Michael was diagnosed with CF. You were there for my marriage and the birth of my twins and we spent many vacations together. We've been through life together and you have achieved greatness here and I can say to you, you are my brother and I am proud of everything you have become. There is a quote from Will

Grace and it says, "I do not say goodbye, I believe it is one of the bullshitting words that has ever been invented. It's not like you are given a choice in saying bad bye or awful bye or couldn't care less about you/bye. Every time you leave it's supposed to be a good one." I say to you wherever you go you will be missed. I will miss sitting next to you. I will miss sitting next to you talking to you. You have educated me in the art of education and taught me a lot of things. You have taught me about life, you have been my big brother and in my heart I know we will always be together and I love you.

Mr. Traficante stated – Frank, I do have a history with Peter as well. I don't know exactly how many years ago, it has to be forty years ago that I had Peter as a student at Cranston High School East in my mathematics class. And, you are right Frank; he was not a good student. But what he was was highly respectful, charismatic, and what I am going to miss most about Peter Nero was his leadership. He has a legacy in this system. In fact, I believe he is the first superintendent that graduated from a Cranston Public School so that is an honor in itself but we are going to miss him dearly because of that leadership and because of his history in the school department. He is going to be dearly missed by Mike Traficante.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – the funny thing about Peter is and I doubt that he will even remember this, but one of the first meetings that I sat on this school committee for, I disagreed with him on something and I voted against something that he was putting forward and I talked to him the next day and stated I hope you are not mad at me and he said, you know, I'm a big boy and I can take it and he further stated,

we are going to disagree and it's going to be fine. And, I have to tell you that this is my fourth year and we have disagreed plenty but it's always been fine. I have found him to be respectful; I have found him to be communicative in a way that other people we have worked with in the past have not been. He's always been open and willing to discuss any issue that's out there. I wish him well. The only thing I am sad about is that he's not going to be able to see the end result of the work he has been really, really pushing for and that is getting us out of the situation that we have been in for these many years. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and the reason for that light is because of Peter's leadership. Cranston will be coming back because of what he and the administration have accomplished these past few years. Thank you Peter.

Mrs. Culhane stated – I would just like to say that I am going to miss Peter too for a variety of reasons but one thing I would like to reiterate what Mrs. Ruggieri said is that we haven't always agreed here and I think sometimes we have such a great respect for one another that it gives the impression that we are always agreeing and we're always on each other's sides and we don't always agree but we are always on each other's sides because we have a very good working relationship and very good communication and I have often felt when Peter was first hired on as superintendent I always felt we got off on the wrong foot because I was a person who spoke up and thought that maybe we should have had a search, that maybe we should have dug a little deeper. Some people were calling him the greatest superintendent in the universe and there were a lot of jokes of him

being named a super hero and all that stuff and I believe now that that is true. Peter Nero was the right man at the right time and he was exactly what this district needed to make some very difficult and unpopular choices. Let's face it folks, we have not had an easy tenure up here over the last few years. We have been party to some really awful things that we have had to do educational wise, legally, and Peter has always risen above everything that we have had to do and I feel that we have always done it together. Whether or not we've been on the same page is of no consequence because one way or another we always saw a way back and that way back was what was going to be best for the students and for the city and I am sad that not enough leaders are here to give him recognition for that, for what he did. Not just for the students of Cranston but for the city of Cranston and I really wish everyone here would take that word and spread it out because Peter Nero is Superman as far as I am concerned. Peter we will work towards the end of what you set forth for us to do.

Mr. Bloom stated – it is hard to recall that when Peter was appointed here this district had just lost another Caruolo action and Peter was the rudder that steered this district out of that morass and pointed us in the direction where we are now in a position where there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I want to echo his own words and the ones that were repeated by Mrs. Culhane that he was the right man for the position and his leadership and will be sorely missed in this district. Thank you Peter.

Mrs. McFarland stated – I wanted to say thank you as an elected official in the city as you know being an employee of the city you

spend more of your share of time not only doing your job but also being committed to the city and you always reached out to me even when I spent my years on the council inviting me to opportunities and not necessarily did I get invited to by all of the principals in this district. So I want to say thank you for being so dedicated to the community and always reaching out to those of us that were elected here and may not only serve that particular area but knew we cared about the city as a whole. Secondly, you were the person for the job. You took the opportunity to make sure we looked at our budgets over the years and made decisions on what was best for the district. It wasn't the easy road but it definitely was the high road and I have to commend you for your leadership and your dedication, not only to the school district but to our city as well. We will miss you and I want to thank you personally for the many years I have had the opportunity to know you, to serve with you, and to be a neighbor of yours in this community as well. Thank you.

Dr. Lundsten stated – Peter, you have been my friend, you have been my mentor, you have been my teacher, you have been a colleague, you have been my lunch buddy, I will miss your apron. You have taught me all about leadership, about communication, politics in the very best sense of the word, we will truly miss you. When I think about leadership, you want to leave the place you've been better than it was when you started so that's what you have done Peter. This school system is a better place for our children and for our staff and for the community and it has been a true pleasure. I will miss you. Thank you.

Mr. Traficante stated – Frank, I am going to quote someone. I think it's appropriate at this time. I don't know who wrote these words, it may have been Winston Churchill I think. He says that "service is a dues one must pay for occupying space here on earth." Peter, you have paid more than your fair share of dues to the Cranston School district and to the Cranston School children. You deserve to be happy and we all wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Public Hearing

a. Students (agenda/non-agenda matters)

b. Members of the Public (agenda matters only)

Mr. Anthony Lupino – Citizen of Cranston/City Council President

My Italian grandmother would be disappointed because I came empty-handed. I don't have a citation and I don't have a bag of donuts but I came here personally for you Peter. I am not representing the Council, I'm just coming here as a public servant to show appreciation for a dedicated public employee. If Mr. Lombardi can say bullshitting then I can say sucks. It sucks that most of which you had to do over the last six years has resolved around dollars and cents but I know that underlying all of that was a passion to do what was right for the students of Cranston. Frank, you don't mind if I cry do you? I know they talked about 34 chronological years but I know personally that's it been the last six that you have lost the most amount of sleep over and the most challenging of your entire career I am sure and some mistakes were made along the way. I was on a committee that made a mistake but out of that mistake was born your trial by fire and let's face it, we needed someone to show and do that

job, someone who was going to show up and do the job and go to work and you certainly filled that bill and you know what I am talking about. So I entirely appreciate that. You have done the best you possibly could under the worst conditions. I came empty handed but I have a full heart knowing that you did was best for a school system that I love, that I have dedicated a good portion of my career to upholding. I have tried when I could on the Council to get the funds that we need to run this organization and I will continue for the next six months. I am taking a little hiatus. I am just so disappointed. As much as things change and as much as they stay the same. The crowd, you mention lack of allocates, I am sure some will come in some form but I just wanted to personally say thank you for your passion, you have done a tremendous job. You will be remembered as one of the great superintendent's right along with the ones that are usually mentioned, you will be right there and I would like to say Happy Retirement but I know you are going to work tomorrow so thank you very much from my heart to yours.

Valerie Shuele – Parent

I said I wasn't going to cry and I will take credit for first calling Peter a superhero at Western Hills Middle School at the microphone and I meant it then and I mean it now. But I remember, I was thinking today about Peter and when we came here and I went to Western Hills and it was the summer and he was filing something and I said, hello, I'm Valerie Shuele, my kids are coming to Western Hills, where do they hold the School Committee meetings? He got up, he shook my hand and he said and he looked at me as if to say, yeah, right lady we'll

see. And, we have been together ever since and there have been some good times, there has been some bad times but Peter has always been very supportive to parents and as a parent who sat on every committee he ever had as a parent who involved in everything I could be involved in, Peter was always honest, straight-forward and when it came time for my kids and they needed letters for West Point, Peter stood up and he wrote tremendous letters for my children. You know I am very happy and excited for you. I'm not sad you are leaving. This is a new opportunity and we're going to have somebody...when God closes one door he opens another and somebody is going to come who is going to replace you. I doubt I will ever call them a superhero but there going to replace you and you have done tremendous things in a very difficult time. I thank you for that and I want to thank you from the parents' side of things because you work with us too and have done a great job at it. Thank you for always having your door open and always being there, not only you but your whole family. It's a wonderful thing.

Jeannine Nota-Masse, Employee Cranston Public Schools

I am up here tonight as a member of your Executive Team but I am also a parent of a child who just finished first grade so I am here for the long haul like you were. But I had to prepare something because I knew I just couldn't get up here and shoot from the hip. Those of you who know Peter for any length of time know that he is a big fan of music, especially the soothing sounds of the 70's. In fact he has known to watch the YouTube videos of bands, because that's what they were called back then, while at the gym. He is also sometimes

inclined to tell stories harking to his younger, darker hair, days. So this morning Peter came into the office and started talking about his ride into work and of course the topic of music came up and you alluded to that earlier. He talked about when he was on his way to Stoughton, MA on his first day of teaching somewhere in the mid-70's; he heard a song on the radio from Chicago, If You Leave Me Now. So, as he's telling this story we're kind of hanging on waiting for the punch-line and then he shared that this morning he got into the car and turned on his 70's station and of course he heard Donna Summer, Last Dance. And, as people were surrounding his listening to the story at first we laughed and then we paused and it kind of hit us, the metaphor got to us. Realizing that today indeed was Peter's last day serving in an official capacity in Cranston.

Peter and I first interviewed in 2001 for an assistant principal position at Western Hills Middle School. I left that interview feeling like Cranston the greatest place on earth to work and I believed him. He told me how wonderful it was. He also said the greatest job he ever had was an assistant principal at Cranston High School East and at first I thought, this guy is crazy. He's a principal and as he moved up in the ranks he kept saying that. After 11 years in this district, having the job that you thought was the greatest job on earth I believe you and I believe in you. So today throughout the day I thought about Peter's bookend metaphor of songs that have defined his career and I thought about other songs that might be applicable. Certainly he could hum along with Welcome to the Jungle, We're Not Going to Take It, and maybe even, God Bless America among a few. But I

guess one of the songs that kept popping into my brain was “We Are Family” another song from the 70’s. Just like a family Cranston Public Schools has had to endure some very difficult times but with strong heads of the family like Catherine Ciarlo, Jim Cofone, Dr. Judy Lundsten and of course Peter we have managed to stay together. This family has made difficult sacrifices, agonized over those decisions that affect our children, and we mean that when we say our children and look to the future for the good of the family. Just like a family we may not always agree with each other but when challenged by someone outside of the family we become stronger and just like a family when we realize that a member of that family needs to grow, develop, leave and move on we support, encourage, and are truly happy to see that person go and be successful. So Peter to quote your favorite band Chicago, You’re the Inspiration to all of us and we hope to carry on your legacy. Thank you, good luck and congratulations.

Liz Larkin, CTA President

When the site visit group came from North Stonington, the day-long process, I am sure they asked the same questions of everyone and they sat the union leadership in the conference room and they said, well now we’ll get the real story and I said what you are getting is the real story. We’re not going to give you any other story because what you see is what you get with Peter Nero and they said could you think of one word to describe him and of course John Santangelo took my word but I had a backup word and my back up word was “loyal”.

Because you have been so loyal to us and your word was your word. I didn't have to leave a meeting thinking, you know he's just one of those back-stabbing people that are telling me what I want to hear and then I'm going to turn around and it's going to be wrong. You did not do that. When you said something you meant it. And it is really more difficult I think the people who would like to tear things apart they don't understand that it is really more difficult to build and work together and find resolutions then it is to dictate to bully. Because that is really the difficult work. Our families will attest to the fact that we are on this 24/7. Something comes up we're always talking, we're always trying to put fires out and that we have resolved a lot of issues together. That being said there are some people who look at working together as being weak. But they really have no idea how it strengthens relationships and how good it has been for Cranston during these difficult times. They don't understand that when difficult decisions have to be made that they should all be made together and that it why you have always included our leadership because the only crime we ever had is we have the same vision and while we are charged to do different things at times we really still had the same vision. A lot of people think we just sat around the campfire roasting marshmallows and singing. That is not the case as we will attest to and I am asking you to not use some of those words in North Stonington. You did not dismantle, you build, and you seek resolutions. You respect how hard educators work because you are one of them and you sought out a profession but you really found a vocation and I wish you well and I will miss working with you. An

actual fact is if any other people come in and try to destroy all of the work all of these good people up here and we have done they really will seem like they just do not belong in Cranston.

Now, on a lighter note I was shopping the other day and I came across something that I knew you would need. Since you leaving the big urban city and going to Sleepy Hollow I have this shirt for you (It states The GrillFather). So I look over and I see this shirt so instead of guns, leave the gun and take the cannoli, and I think you will be using this (Ms. Larkin held up a large spatula) for more than flipping hamburgers because of the cow pastures. Lastly I do have a plaque for you but I bought it and when I saw it I thought of you but as you well know you and I are very similar and we go toe to toe because we are just as dedicated and just as loyal. The plaque read = Save Time, See It My Way. Congratulations Peter.

Gail DeRobbio, Teacher, Cranston Public Schools

It is difficult getting up this evening when it is truly a happy and sad occasion all at one. But Peter and I have both had agreements and disagreements over the years but a true leader, which Peter is, has a vision and sees that vision and carries that through. You can stand in one spot and if you don't take that step you're not going anywhere.

Ms. DeRobbio then read from her prepared speech (which is attached for the record and on file in the Superintendent's office).

Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda

Resolutions No. 12-7-4 with addendum, 12-7-5 through 12-7-7 with addendum, 12-7-8 through 12-7-18. Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

NO. 12-7-1 - Whereas, Peter L. Nero has dedicated thirty-four years to the children of Cranston Public Schools as a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, an Assistant Superintendent and then Superintendent of Schools, and

Whereas, Peter L. Nero has provided strong and dedicated leadership to the Cranston Public Schools as Superintendent, and

Whereas, Peter L. Nero has brought honor and distinction to the education profession and the City of Cranston,

Whereas, Peter L. Nero hereby retires from the Cranston Public Schools effective July 16, 2012,

Be it RESOLVED, that in honor of his dedicated service to the youth of the City of Cranston and the Cranston Public Schools, Peter L. Nero be designated Superintendent Emeritus by the Cranston School Committee, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that Peter L. Nero receive a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the Cranston School Committee.

Moved by Mr. Lombardi. Seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. Discussion.

Mr. Lombardi stated – the chair was nice enough to give me the choice of which resolution I wanted to bring into the record and I thought the most apropos would be the one from the Cranston School Committee. (Mr. Lombardi read the resolution). Ms. Iannazzi asked Mr. Lombardi to assume that chair at this point. Ms. Iannazzi stated – Mrs. Culhane mentioned earlier that someone had referred to Mr. Nero as the greatest superintendent in the universe and I am

proud to have been that somebody who referred to him as that. We are all here indicating that the current superintendent served in that capacity for three years, but anyone who knows the interworking of Cranston Public Schools knows that he had had that position for six years. I want to thank him because Mr. Nero inherited a school committee and an administration that had no trust. There was absolutely no trust and within a couple of weeks of him assuming the office he had rebuilt the trust and turned what was perhaps a dysfunctional situation into a family and as evidence of that jokingly I will show you my speed dial where there is my mom, my dad, and then Peter Nero. That goes to show you what the relationship between the school committee and this administration is. Peter Nero is as honest as they come. When he gives you his word and he tells you something that is the truth. In this business sometimes you have to be cautious who you trust and that has never been the case with Peter. You can go to Peter with any question on any issue and he may not agree with you but he will always tell you exactly what he thinks is right. Jeannine earlier said that the song that best fit is We Are Family and I agree with that but I am hoping that in your future the song that fits you best is The Best is Yet to Come because I think there is nothing but good things in store for you. We are going to miss you every day but I know you are not going far. I know you are always accessible by phone and that you will be there in a second if we have a question. On behalf of the School Committee I would like to present you with this plaque. For every member of the public out there, just so you know, this was personally paid for me and not by

taxpayer's expense. But the School Committee hereby recognizes Peter L. Nero on the occasion of your retirement from Cranston Public Schools. The School Committee offers its sincere appreciation for your 34 years of service to Cranston students, congratulations and best wishes, November 1, 1978 to July 16, 2012.

The roll was called; all were in favor.

Sponsored by Chairperson Iannazzi

NO. 12-7-2 – Whereas in today's difficult economy, high school students are struggling to find ways to afford college; and

Whereas, a national survey conducted by the Jump\$tart Coalition in 2008 found that only 48.4% of 12th grade students passed a Personal Financial Survey (<http://www.jumpstart.org/assets/files/2008SurveyBook.pdf>); and

Whereas, there now exists several vehicles to provide free financial literacy curriculum to our students (Everfi, Jump\$tart RI Coalition, National Financial Educators Council);

Be it RESOLVED that the Central Administration prepare a plan for review by the School Committee to include financial literacy in the Cranston Public Schools curriculum.

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded Mrs. Ruggieri. All were in favor.

PERSONNEL

NO. 12-7-3 - Be it RESOLVED that Dr. Judith Lundsten be hereby appointed interim superintendent at no additional compensation until a replacement superintendent is appointed.

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Culhane. Discussion. Ms. Iannazzi asked Mr. Lombardi to assume the chair. Ms. Iannazzi stated

– I just want to clarify the process for those of you that have submitted questions and have some concerns about the process for the next superintendent. This resolution appoints Dr. Lundsten as the interim superintendent. This legally protects the district so that any contracts that are signed or any invoices that are paid by the acting superintendent are then legal documents. We are still pursuing a search. We have public interviews scheduled for July 23 and July 26. If any member of the public wants to engage in that process we would strongly encourage you to submit questions in advance to the email address that is listed on the website that is supersearchcom@cpsed.net. We are requiring that questions be submitted in advance in order for the questions to be posed to each finalist. And as always if there are any questions about the superintendent search process feel free to call or email.

The roll was called; all were in favor.

NO. 12-7-4- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the 2012-2013 school year:

Colleen Hart...Step 1

Education...URI, BS & BA

Experience...Westerly Student Teacher

Certification...Secondary Math

Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note... 11312280-51110

Kerry Holden, Step 1

Education...URI, BA

Experience...Cranston Student Teacher

Certification...Secondary Math

Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11312280-51110

Katherine Tanner, Step 4 + Masters

Education...URI BA, MLS

Experience...West Warwick School Department

Certification...Library\ Media

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12216030-51110

Katherine O'Kane, Step 1 + Masters

Education...University of Mass, BA, URI, MLS

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Library\Media

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12216030-51110

Jennifer Cohen, Step 1 + Masters

Education...Brown University, BA, URI MLS

Experience...Barrington Student Teacher

Certification...Library\Media

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12216030-51110

Trista Casey, Step 2

Education...Rhode Island College, BA

Experience... West Warwick School Department

Certification...Special Educator – Severe/Profound

Assignment...Cranston East 1.0 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11313260-51110

With Addendum

Jake Smith, Step 1

Education....Rhode Island College, B.S.

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Art PK-12

Assignment...Itinerant 1.0

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...13612370-51110

Ellen Laprocina, Step 2

Education....Rhode Island College, B.S., B.A.

Experience...Cranston Substitute

Certification...Art Pk-12

Assignment...Itinerant .5 FTE

Effective Date...August 27, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12312370-51110

Mr. Nero stated – we have hired a new group of teachers and would like to recognize those people tonight; you are coming to a great place. Please stand to be recognized.

NO. 12-7-5- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Christine Smedberg, Elementary

NO. 12-7-6- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Elizabeth Reichardt, Teacher

Cranston High School East
Effective Date: June 30, 2012

Jeffrey Guiot, Teacher
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: June 30, 2012

Jennifer Plympton, Speech & Language Pathologist
Itinerant
Effective Date: June 30, 2012

NO. 12-7-7- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed:

Denise Principe, Elementary Secretary
Eden Park Elementary School
Effective Date...August 14, 2012
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note...11843210-51110

Jennifer Montefusco, Elementary Secretary
Arlington Elementary School
Effective Date...August 14, 2012
Authorization...Replacement
Fiscal Note...12543210-51110

Gina Capuano, Elementary Secretary

E. S. Rhodes Elementary School

Effective Date...August 14, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11743210-51110

Susan Dubuque, Elementary Secretary

Chester Barrows Elementary School

Effective Date...August 14, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11243210-51110

Roland Lataille, Jr., PT Custodian

George J. Peters Elementary School

Effective Date...July 17, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...12447050-51110

Richard Falco, PT Custodian

Eden Park Elementary School

Effective Date...July 17, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...11847050-51110

With Addendum

Brian Medbery, Copy Room/Mail Clerk

Effective Date...July 16, 2012

Authorization...Replacement

Fiscal Note...19642230-51110

NO. 12-7-8- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Otis Wolloh, Bus Driver

Donna Rossi, Bus Driver

Nathalie Ferland, Bus Driver

Lesly Larosiliere, Bus Driver

NO. 12-7-9- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Gerrie Zettel, Teacher Assistant

Oak Lawn Elementary School

Effective Date: June 30, 2014

NO. 12-7-10- Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation(s) of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Marissa Generali, Mail/Copy Clerk

Human Resources

Effective Date: July 16, 2012

NO. 12-7-11 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement of Teacher C be approved.

NO. 12-7-12 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the agreement of Teacher Assistant D be approved.

BUSINESS

NO. 12-7-13- Resolved, that the following purchase(s) be approved:

Athletic Training & Sports Medicine Services provided at no cost to Cranston Public Schools be awarded to Alpha Physical Therapy.

Number of bids issued 4

Number of bids received 2

NO. 12-7-14- Resolved, that the following purchase(s) be approved:

Computer Supplies in the amount of \$11,780.83.

Number of bids issued 4

Number of bids received 3

NO. 12-7-15- Resolved, that the following purchase(s) be approved:

Design/Build Services for Fire Alarm Upgrade at the Early Learning Center be awarded in the amount of \$22,900.00.

Number of bids issued 9

Number of bids received 2

NO. 12-7-16- RESOLVED, that the following purchase(s) be approved: Tandem Axle Car Hauler Trailer in the amount of \$7,875.00 Funding provided by the National Association of Music Education.

Number of bids issued 7

Number of bids received 1

NO. 12-7-17- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the REVISED 2011-2012 School Calendar be approved (attached) adding additional new teacher orientation day of August 22, 2012.

NO. 12-7-18- RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Chairperson of the School Committee, the Cranston School Committee Meetings and Work Sessions schedule for 2012-2013 be adopted (attached).

NO. 12-7-19 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the approval of the Purchased Service Agreement between The West Bay Collaborative Program located at the Horton Elementary School and Cranston Public Schools for the amount of

\$430,000.00 be approved.

Moved by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Traficante. Discussion.

Ms. Iannazzi stated – Mr. Balducci we are in receipt of your memo. Mr. Lombardi did you want to read it into the record so that taxpayers are aware of the savings involved.

Mr. Lombardi stated – after the work session last week we asked Joe to compile the cost benefit analysis if you will of utilizing the West Bay Collaborative at the Horton Elementary School and Joe writes, and I quote: As requested by the Cranston School Committee, attached please find cost breakdown of the fee charged by the West Bay Collaborative as it pertains to the management of the Horton Program. Furthermore, the following analysis illustrates the cost benefit to the School District by having the West Bay collaborative manage the program.

- West Bay Management Fee \$430,000**
- Cost Avoidance by School District 733,700 (A)**

Budget Savings \$303,700

=====

(A) Based upon the assumption that approximately 11 students would be placed into an outside agency at a tuition rate between \$66,700 - \$68,080 each. The \$66,700 tuition rate was used in the calculation above.

(Memo attached for the record) Breakdown is on page 2 of this memo. Mrs. Culhane stated she had two questions for Mr. Balducci. The first

question is the numbers that are included for the staff, does that include benefits? Mr. Balducci responded – the attachment was actually provided by the West Bay Collaborative again at the request of the last school committee meeting. You guys asked for a breakdown of the \$430,000 so I assume that includes salary and benefits. The other question I have is the calculation of the outside tuition can you explain how you derived at that number? Mr. Balducci stated – in consultation with Cheryl Coogan we looked at a typical agency that we would place a student if we did not educate that student as part of the program so in consulting with Cheryl she gave us a high and a low and we did an average.

Mr. Lombardi stated – Madam Chair I just want to say that this again represents another example of our segwaying into the Nero administration with this school committee, making every effort of trying to save money and to realize revenues every way that we possibly can so that the public is aware that the light at the end of the tunnel is forthcoming.

Mrs. McFarland stated – I just want to add to that – the program that is being offered is something that is wonderful for the children that go there. I was able to visit that program and this opportunity helps children of Cranston so on behalf of the superintendent and his executive leadership it was a smart thing to do.

Mr. Lombardi stated – Mrs. McFarland just reminded me, one of the things that I learned from another superhero in our district, Cheryl Coogan, is that the children who would have been out of district who are now in district here are being offered Cranston materials so the

transition to their home school becomes that much more seamless as well. So in addition to the monetary savings I think that there is an intellectual benefit to keeping our kids within the district as well.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated – in addition to that the West Bay Collaborative has truly been a collaborative not only at the Horton School but they have extended themselves out throughout the entire district so that if there are issues at other schools and throughout the district that they have actually stepped up and gone into the schools and helped out in those situation above and beyond what was kind of put into their program details. This is not a collaboration with only these 16 students that are currently at the Horton School, this is a true district wide collaboration. I think it is important for people to know that as well.

The roll was called; all were in favor.

Mr. Nero stated – I apologize but with all the discussion surrounding me tonight I am a little bit off of my game. I would also like to recognize all of the non-certified staff being appointed tonight, especially the secretaries who will be working very, very, closely with their principals.

TABLED RESOLUTION

NO. 12-6-36 – Resolved, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the non-renewal of Administrator A – Elementary Principal, be accepted.

MONTH M T W T F DAYS MONTH M T W T F DAYS													
Aug. 22* 23* 24* Feb. 1													
27** 28 29 30 31 (4) 4 5 6 7 8													
11 12 13 14 15													
Sept. X 4 5 6 7 X X X X X 10 X 12 13 14 25 26 27 28 (15)													
X X 19 20 21													
24 25 X 27 28 (15) Mar. 1													
4 5 6 7 8													
Oct. 1 2 3 4 5 11 12 13 14 15													

X 9 10 11 12 18 19 20 21 22
 15 16 17 18 19 25 26 27 28 X (20)
 22 23 24 25 26
 29 30 31 (22) Apr. 1 2 3 4 5
 8 9 10 11 12
 Nov. 1 2 X X X X X
 5 X 7 8 9 22 23 24 25 26
 X 13 14 15 16 29 30 (17)
 19 20 21 X X
 26 27 28 29 30 (18) May 1 2 3
 6 7 8 9 10
 Dec. 3 4 5 6 7 13 14 15 16 17
 10 11 12 13 14 20 21 22 23 24
 17 18 19 20 21 X 28 29 30 31 (22)
 X X X X X
 X (15) June 3 4 5 6 7
 Jan. X 2 3 4 10 11 12 13 14
 7 8 9 10 11 17 (18 19 20 21
 14 15 16 17 18 24) 25 26 27 28 (11)
 X 22 23 24 25 85
 28 29 30 31 (21)
 95

*New Teacher Orientation – August 22, 23 & 24, 2012 **All
 Professional Staff Orientation – Aug. 27, 2012
 First Day of School for Students – Tuesday, August 28, 2012 – ALL
 GRADES REPORT

SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED (X=no school)

Sept. 3, 2012 Labor Day

Sept. 11, 2012 State Primary Elections

Sept. 17 and 18, 2012 Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 26, 2012 Yom Kippur

Oct. 8, 2012 Columbus Day Observed

Nov. 6, 2012 General Elections

Nov. 12, 2012 Veterans' Day Observed

Nov. 22 and 23, 2012 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 24 to Jan. 1, 2013 Holiday Recess (includes Christmas Day/Dec. 25 & New Year's Day/Jan 1)

Jan. 21, 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Feb. 18 to Feb. 22, 2013 Mid-Winter Recess (includes Presidents' Day / Feb. 18)

March 29, 2013 Good Friday

April 15 to April 19, 2013 Spring Recess

May 27, 2013 Memorial Day Observed

Schools close June 17, 2013 or the 180th day (June 18th to June 24th = make-up days for inclement weather)

First term – Aug. 28 to Nov. 7, 2012 = Inclusive 45 days Second term – Nov. 8 to Jan. 24, 2013 = Inclusive 45 days

Third term – Jan. 25 to April 5, 2013 = Inclusive 45 days Fourth term – April 8 to June 17, 2013 = Inclusive 45 days

GRADUATION DATES

Cranston High School East and Cranston High School West – Saturday, June 15, 2013. NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy –

Friday, June 14, 2013.

Cranston East, Cranston West, and NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy Seniors' Last Day of Instruction – June 4, 2013.

**gm **

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS
SCHEDULE**

2012-2013

DATE TIME LOCATION

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012 5:00 pm (special time) Briggs Building

Monday, Sept. 24, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Oct. 15, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Nov. 19, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, Dec. 10, 2012 7:00 pm* Western Hills

2013

Monday, Jan. 7, 2013 5:30 pm* Briggs Building

(Organizational Meeting)

**Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)**

**Monday, Jan. 28, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)**

**Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013 (if necessary) 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Public Budget Work Session)**

**Monday, Feb. 11, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Budget Adoption)**

**Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 7:00 pm Western Hills
(Budget Adoption II)**

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, March 18, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, April 18, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, May 22, 2013 7:00 pm* Western Hills

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, June 17, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Monday, June 24, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, July 15, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 6:00 pm Briggs Building

Monday, August 19, 2013 7:00 pm* Hope Highlands

Wednesday meeting dates denote School Committee Work Sessions and Monday meeting dates denote regular School Committee meetings. The schedule has also been adjusted, where it could be, to not conflict with City Council meetings.

*** = or immediately following Executive Session.**

gm **July 16, 2012**

Resolution No. 12-7-18

MEMORANDUM

To: Judith Lundsten

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

From: Joseph A. Balducci

Chief Financial Officer

Subject: West Bay Collaborative – Horton School Program

Date: July 16, 2012

As requested by the Cranston School Committee, attached please find a cost breakdown of the fee charged by the West Bay Collaborative as it pertains to the management of the Horton Program. Furthermore, the following analysis illustrates the cost benefit to the School District by having the West Bay Collaborative manage the program.

West Bay Management Fee	\$430,000
Cost Avoidance by School District	733,700 (A)

Budget Savings	\$303,700
=====	

Based upon the assumption that approximately 11 students would be placed into an outside agency at a tuition rate between \$66,700 - \$68,080 each. The \$66,700 tuition rate was used in the calculation above.

In conclusion, if upon review of this information there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you.

JAB:jts

Attachment

**C: Cranston School Committee
Executive Team**

File:Superintendent\Horton School Program

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